

TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL OF 1902-1903 HELD ITS FINAL SESSION MONDAY NIGHT.

Sewer and Drainage Matters Discussed—Trolley Franchise Takes Its Usual Course—Official Bonds Filed—Town Note Issued in Anticipation of Taxes—Election Bills Paid.

The Town Council for the year 1902-03 held its final business session on Monday night, and on Monday night, May 4, it will be succeeded by the Council of 1903-04.

Charles W. Chabot, Councilman-elect from the Third Ward, was among the spectators at Monday night's meeting, and Chairman Peterson courteously invited him to a seat at the head of the Council table to the left of the Chairman.

Councilman Conlan of the Finance Committee reported the request of the Town Treasurer for the issuing of a note for \$5,000 in anticipation of taxes. Councilman Conlan as Chairman of the Sewer and Drainage Committee reported that the plan had been laid in the drain through Mr. Ellen Smith's property in Essex.

Councilman Moore of the Franchise Committee made the usual motion for postponement of action on the franchise application of the Essex Cross Railway until the next regular meeting of the Council. Mr. Moore stated that while no motion had been developed in this vicinity in connection with the proposed railway, it was understood that the city of Elizabeth had taken important action in favor of the company, and it was possible that the proposed merger of trolley lines now under way would have an important bearing on the Essex Cross line, and a franchise with transfers was a possibility. He advised that the pending application be kept alive in order that the benefit of all the preliminary work done might be preserved.

In the matter of safety appliances at the grade crossings of trolley and steam lines in this town, Mr. Moore said that the superintendents of both the North Jersey Company and the Passaic Valley Company had readily agreed to the propositions of the Council. The North Jersey Company, Mr. Moore said, maintained one of the most approved safety appliances at the Bloomfield Avenue crossing of the Erie Railroad.

The Grove Street sewer petition was laid over until next meeting in order to give the Legal Committee opportunity to make further investigation of some matters connected with the proposed work.

Mr. Moore stated that the Edgewood Road petition for the acceptance of that street had not yet been acted upon because the Town Attorney had not been furnished with a description of the property.

Mr. Moore reported a serious nuisance that was a menace to the residents of Jerome Place. The union outlet sewer is close to the Second River at that place, and in times of high water in the stream the water flows over the top of the sewer manholes and the sewage flows out over the ground. The fault is that the manhole riser is not high enough. Clerk Johnson was instructed to call the attention of the city of Orange officials to the complaint.

Councilman Walker said that a similar complaint made some time ago was remedied by increasing the height of the "risers."

The resignation of William S. Dodd as a member of the Health Board was presented by Chairman Peterson. Mr. Dodd stated that his resignation was due to absence from town. It was accepted and Chairman Peterson appointed James H. Moore as a member of the Health Board to succeed Mr. Dodd. Councilman Moore complimented the Chairman on his excellent selection. The appointment was unanimously confirmed.

The official bond of Assessor-elect Thomas Rawson was presented and accepted by the Council.

Councilman Moore complimented Councilman Conlan of the Sewer Committee on the work done in cleaning out the Washington Street ditch.

Hugh D. King asked for information in regard to the Weaver Avenue improvement. Attorney Halfpenny informed the Council of some complications that had arisen in the opening of Weaver Avenue. The contract for opening Weaver Avenue was awarded to an Italian from Montclair, and the contract for the catch-basins to Martin J. Callahan.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL.

A New Law Gives Town Council Power to Act in the Matter of Collecting and Disposal of Garbage.—Councilman Moore Says a Plan of Carrying on the Work will be Reported at the Next Council Meeting.

A supplement to the Town Act passed at the recent session of the Legislature invests the Town Council with power to pass an ordinance for the collection and disposal of ashes and garbage, and to place an appropriation in the tax levy for the purpose of carrying on that work. Hitherto the Board of Health has had charge of this work, and Councilman W. Douglas Moore of the First Ward recently presented a number of complaints from residents of Austin Place and other streets about the unsatisfactory manner in which the work was done, and of Mr. Moore's suggestion that the Council appoint a special committee to act in conference with the Board of Health for the devising of a better system.

At Monday night's meeting of the Council Mr. Moore submitted and read a copy of the new law, and said that the Council was now in a position to act independently of the Board of Health in the work, and at the next meeting of the Council the special committee would report a plan of work.

Chairman Peterson wanted immediate action taken, and at his request Mr. Moore introduced by title an ordinance for a system of collection and disposal of garbage. Chairman Peterson's reason for wanting prompt action taken was due to an aggravating nuisance created at the foot of Nelson Place, where a scavenger dump now exists. Mr. Peterson said that the residents in that locality were going to petition the town authorities to abate the nuisance, and if such action was not effective they would take the matter to the courts. He announced his intention to appear personally before the Board of Health and make complaint.

All sorts of rubbish is dumped on the property at the foot of Nelson Street, and the paper and light material in it is carried by the wind and strewn over a large section of ground.

The matter of disposing of ashes and garbage is the most serious feature of the work. Contractors, no doubt, will readily be found who will contract to collect, but when it comes to a proper and satisfactory disposal of the rubbish, it will perhaps be difficult to find an unobjectionable place on which to dump it.

If Mr. Moore shall succeed on a satisfactory solution of the garbage disposal question he will have accomplished an important work, and will confer a benefit on many residents of the town. The garbage question has been a source of vexatious trouble for several years now, and the time has arrived when it must be met and settled.

More Arrests

E. Wordworth, driver of a wagon for the Superior Laundry Company of East Orange, was arrested by Officer Shorter yesterday for violation of the ordinance prohibiting the feeding of horses along the highway without tying. He was fined five dollars.

Louis Brilenbuck, a driver for Sommers & Co., wholesale grocers and liquor dealers, was also arrested yesterday by Officer Shorter for the same offense, and he had paid the fine of five dollars when Councilman Unszat, Chairman of the Police Committee, appeared at the police station and said that a mistake had been made as the man had been arrested in Depot Square and that was private property belonging to the Lackawanna Railroad Company. Councilman Conlan also expressed the opinion that he did not think the ordinance covered private property, and the legality of the fine was in his opinion doubtful. Recorder Post, in deference to the opinion of the two Councilmen, returned the fine paid by Mr. Sommer's driver.

The North Jersey Street Railway Company was fined \$50 and costs in the First District Court, Newark, yesterday for operating a car without displaying the city license. Recently Councilman Farrand reported an incident to the Town Councilmen of this town of a case where the same company was operating a car here on a two-year old license.

A FAIRVIEW PROBLEM.

Trouble Caused by the Widening of Harrison Street—The Fairview Improvement Association Wants to Know When the Street was Widened, Why it was Widened and Under What Law the Work was Done.

A serious question has arisen in connection with the width of Harrison Street, a main thoroughfare, and leading from Franklin Street to Belleville. Many properties are involved in the trouble that has arisen, and at a recent meeting of the Fairview Improvement Association a committee was appointed to lay the matter before the Town Council.

Edward Hughes, representing the association, appeared at the Council meeting Monday night and at the request of Councilman Farrand was given a hearing. Mr. Hughes stated that in a recent transfer of property fronting on Harrison Street a survey of the property demonstrated that it was 17 1/2 feet short of the depth called for by the deed, and on investigation it was found that the discrepancy between the deed and the actual measurement was due to the amount of property above stated being taken from the lot and added to the street in order to make the latter fifty feet wide. Other properties along the northerly side of Harrison Street were involved in the same manner. Mr. Hughes said that it appeared that on widening the street the property needed, for the purpose had all been taken one side of the street and none from the other side of the street. Mr. Hughes said that the Improvement Association desired to know the reason why such a course was followed, and furthermore, Mr. Hughes said the association wanted to know when the street was widened, why it was widened, and under what law the Council acted in widening it. The questions propounded by Mr. Hughes were referred to the Legal Committee.

Councilman Moore, Chairman of the Legal Committee, pointed out some features of the magnitude of the task the Council was imposing on that committee, and said the work was of a character that necessitated the appointment of a commission with power to summon witnesses and collect evidence, but nevertheless the Legal Committee would do the best it could under the circumstances.

ONE HEAD FOR TWO BRANCHES

Bloomfield Council Abolishes Office of Sewer Inspector for Economy Sake.

ALL THE APPOINTMENTS MADE

When Bloomfield's new Town Council met for organization last night and Chairman Peterson had expressed the hope that the deliberations would be harmonious and as free of good feeling as in the past, the board came involved in a lively discussion over a motion made by Councilman Walker that the office of inspector of sewers, now held by Thomas F. Cadmus, be abolished. The motion after a long debate was carried by a vote of 4 to 2. Walker, Harrison, Farrand and Conlan voted in favor and Moore and Conlan against the motion.

Mr. Moore, after the motion had been seconded by Mr. Harrison, made a strong argument against abolishing the office. The department had been in existence, he said, a number of years, in fact since the town government had been organized, and to place the work in the care of another department, he declared, would complicate matters. "There are sewers and 100 to 150 roads, and the question comes before us, would it be wise to have the responsibility of these departments upon one man? It is our duty to look after all these things, and I believe the town government would be strong possibility of complications arising therefrom. In view of the fact that the expense of separate departments has been small it would not be of much advantage to merge with the office of sewer inspector."

No Economy at Montclair.

Mr. Hughes referred to the fact that Montclair had consolidated its sewer and water departments under one head and had made the salary of a superintendent \$1,500, with the result that an assistant had to be engaged at \$750. He contended that if Montclair needed an assistant Bloomfield would need one, too.

It is a question whether we would be gaining anything by uniting two offices, continued Mr. Moore. "If there is no economy, I don't see where we will be benefited."

Mr. Moore was supported by Mr. Conlan. The consolidation of the sewer and road departments as proposed, Mr. Harrison declared, would mean a saving of \$750 a year. Mr. Farrand also argued in favor of the consolidation. After the motion had been carried, the question of appointing a superintendent of public works, who is to have charge of the roads and sewers, was taken up. Mr. Farrand nominated Benjamin Conlan for the position. Councilman Conlan named Thomas F. Cadmus and Mr. Harrison endorsed Harry Cooper, the present superintendent of roads. Mr. Harrison, Moore and Conlan voted for Cooper and Farrand, Chabot and Walker for Conlan, making a tie ballot. Chairman Peterson cast the deciding vote in favor of Cooper, which caused the audience to cheer.

Names of Appointees.

Other appointments made were as follows: Member of the Board of Health, Dr. Edwin M. Ward; surveyor of highways, Edward E. Newman; town attorney, Charles H. Halfpenny; town treasurer, Harry L. Osborne; town surveyors, Edmund A. Beechlin; town physician, Dr. Jacob S. Wolfe; poundmasters, Alexander M. Nair and George Berry.

After Town Clerk Johnson had read the standing committees for the year, as presented by Chairman Peterson, the Second Ward councilman, James M. Walker, who had been made chairman of the Poor Committee, declared that he would not serve as the committee was of no importance.

What is the matter with it? asked Mr. Peterson.

"What I want serve, that's all," replied Mr. Walker.

The latter did not get the chairmanship of any of the important committees. The committees as named were as follows: Auditing, Walker and Chabot; Finance, Printing and Supplies, Conlan and Harrison; Fire, Farrand and Moore; Legal and Fractions, Moore and Conlan; Lighting, Farrand and Chabot; Maps and Surveys, Chabot and Moore; Poor, Walker and Conlan; Police, Harrison and Moore; Public Grounds, Chabot and Walker; Roads and Gutters, Conlan and Harrison; Sewerage and Crosswalks, Moore and Walker; Sewers, Conlan and Farrand; Water, Harrison and Farrand. The salaries were fixed as follows: Clerk, \$1,200; tax collector, \$1,500; Board of Assessors, \$400 each and \$100 for clerk of the board; treasurer, \$200; attorney, \$200; recorder, \$50; surveyors, \$1 per hour, with maximum expenses not to exceed \$1,000; overseer of the poor, \$400; town physician, \$200; superintendent of public works, \$750.

The council will meet the first and third Mondays of each month. The Bloomfield Citizen was made the official newspaper. An invitation was extended to the council to attend the reunion of veterans to-day, and it was accepted.

MAY BOND FOR WATER SUPPLY

Bloomfield Councilmanic Committee Will Report on Question Monday ht.

INCREASE IN THE 'X' BUDGET

The members of the Bloomfield Town Council, after an hour's session last night, during which the water supply question was discussed at length, will refer the matter to the Water Committee, of which Dr. W. F. Harrison is chairman, with power to report at an adjourned meeting next Monday night. At that time, it is said, a report will be submitted in favor of calling a special election in the near future to decide upon the question of bonding the town for the independent water supply.

As told in the SUN-BAY NEWS, the Orange Water Company is desirous of selling its property in the town, and it is alleged has received several offers. According to a contract with the company, the town has the right to purchase in the matter of purchase and it is believed that the authorities will come to an agreement by which municipal ownership can be a reality.

The probability of any other corporation getting hold of the plant is now believed to be out of the question. The filtered Passaic water from the Little Falls intake, which Bloomfield might have been supplied with, caused the council to take prompt action in referring the matter to its Water Committee with power.

Appropriations Considered.

After Councilman Conlan had presented the report of the Finance Committee, fixing the appropriations for the coming year, there was some objection raised by Councilmen Farrand and Moore in rushing through the tax ordinance without further deliberation. Upon motion of Mr. Farrand, action was postponed until the next meeting. The recommendation of the Finance Committee as presented shows an increase over last year of \$9,500, making the tax rate twenty-three points higher. This is due to the increase of thirteen points in the school appropriation and ten points in the county rate.

The appropriations as recommended were as follows: Incidentals, \$13,000; poor, \$3,000; road repairs, \$10,000; police, \$5,300; water, \$7,500; fire, \$2,500; bond and interest, \$21,000; schools, \$37,500; street lighting, \$10,000; county tax, \$35,000; a total of \$146,300 as against \$136,800 last year.

Samuel J. Macdonald was engaged as an associate counsel to represent the town in the contest begun in the courts over the assessments made in the West Belleville avenue storm sewer, which is to come up again on June 6. Some of the property owners are fighting the assessment on the grounds that the levies made were inequitable and that the town, instead of the property owners, should pay for the work.

Charles H. Johnson, representing Essex Hook and Ladder Company, extended an invitation to the councilmen to participate in the annual banquet of the company, on June 9. The invitation was accepted. Councilman Chabot referred to the bad condition of affairs existing in Brookside place and suggested that improvements be made at once. He claimed that the property owners pay their pro rata share of taxes and get no benefit. Chairman Peterson informed Mr. Chabot that the subject had been before the council before, but that an ordinance prevented the acceptance of the offer. He said that the reason for that it had no outlet. The matter was referred to the legal committee.

For Memorial Day Observance.

An appropriation of \$100 was made to William S. Pierson Post and \$15 to the Bloomfield Battery for the observance of Memorial Day.

William Johnson made application for a transfer of the license of Peter Wade, at 205 Glenwood avenue. Under the rules of the council it was laid over for two weeks. Osborne & Marshalls were awarded the contract for supplying broken stone to the town at \$1.50 per gross ton, while Martin Callahan received the contract for making house sewer connections at \$12.50 each. The residents of Jerome place made application for lights. Their request was referred to the street lighting committee with power. A note for \$5,000 was ordered drawn in anticipation of taxes. The application of the Essex Cross Railway for a franchise was laid over until the next meeting.

DAY, MAY 20, 1903

APPROVAL OF LEASE DRAFT

Essex & Hudson Directors Recommend Merger Proposal to Stockholders.

SLIDING SCALE TO 8 PER CENT.

The directors of the Essex and Hudson Gas Company met at the offices of that corporation, at Central avenue and Broad Street, at 9:30 o'clock this morning and voted unanimously to approve the form of lease submitted by the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey and to recommend its adoption at a meeting of the stockholders to be held June 1. The lease is for 99 years and provides for payment on a sliding scale reaching eight per cent. in six years—three and one-half per cent. the first year, four and one-half the second, five the third, six the fourth, seven the fifth and eight the sixth and eight per cent. thereafter.

After the reading of the form of lease, which covered fifty pages, there was little discussion. It was voted to recommend an amendment to the gas company charter in order to provide for the satisfaction of certain details of the instrument and the date of the stockholders' meeting was set.

The matter was wound up in a few minutes. Forms of proxy will be sent to the stockholders immediately. It is understood that pledges of stock to an amount far larger than is necessary to carry through the proposed measure, have been received.

school children of Canton who could not be kept from letting fall their

Our country is united to-day in ad-

London bus dri-

near drops on their about two months.

Clinton Street, Bloomfield, N. J.

Banner, and "Bally Round the Flag."

